

authors. "Secondary addiction," involving as it does physiological tolerance and physical dependence, may develop in any type of habitual drinker. This is a subject which one may expect will be dealt with more fully in the subsequent volumes.

In Chapter II, "Alcoholic Mental Disorders," many good clinical observations are summarized, but few conclusions can be drawn from such data, especially on the subject of delirium tremens. Here the literature is so vague and conflicting that one must hesitate in accepting the authors' conclusions, even as a tentative working hypothesis.

Part II is excellently presented and fortunately the data available are of a high order of scientific merit, enabling the authors to draw some very cogent conclusions. The chapter on vitamin deficiencies in chronic alcoholism is probably the most satisfying in the book. The statistical treatment of the rôle of alcohol in cirrhosis of the liver is also very illuminating.

This work meets a great need and, together with the forthcoming volumes, should be welcomed by all who are concerned with the problem of alcoholism.

—A. WIKLER.

**DIAGNOSIS OF UTERINE CANCER BY THE VAGINAL SMEAR.** By George N. Papanicolaou and Herbert F. Traut. The Commonwealth Fund, New York, 1943. x + 46 pp., 11 plates. \$5.

This work describes a new approach to the diagnosis of uterine cancer and is of essential interest because its use promises to be of signal value in the recognition of early uterine cancer, especially that of the cervix. The method is based upon the recognition of exfoliated abnormal cells characteristic of carcinoma which may be found in the study of the stained vaginal smear. During the three years covered by the study 3014 women have been intensively studied and among these 179 were found to have cancer which was primary in the uterus. Of these, 127 were cervical cancer. In the latter group, 7 were found to be early intradermal types of squamous carcinoma and nearly all were invisible on close inspection of the cervix.

The authors state that the method is not recommended as a means of ultimate diagnosis, but rather as a preliminary or sorting procedure to be confirmed by biopsy and tissue diagnosis. They also emphasize that the evaluation of the stained smear requires a greater knowledge of cytology than that necessary for diagnosis in tissue preparations.

The colored illustrations in this work are a fine exposition of the printer's art and show in a splendid manner the cytological differences that exist in the various cell types which may be found in the stained vaginal smear. The authors are to be congratulated not only upon a study which promises to be of great significance, but also upon the clearness and beauty of its presentation in this volume.

—HERBERT THOMS.